Depletion of Resources in Darjeeling and Terai Region

908. DR. (SHRIMATI) BHARATIRAY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the Himalayan hills in Darjeeling and the Terai region are being Increasingly depleted of forest resources;

(b) if so, the specific steps taken for their protection; and

(c) the special measures taken by Government for afforestation and generation of public awareness regarding enviornment and development?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARYAN PRASAD NISHAD): (a) to (c) The information is being collected from the state and will be laid on the table of House.

Universalisation of Elementary Education

909. PROF. NAUNIHAL SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that the goals set for Universalisation of Elementary Education have been revised from time to time;

(b) if so, on how many occasions these have been revised;

(c) the basic factors responsible for shifting this goal to 2000 AD now; and

(d) the details of the efforts being made by Government to realise this goal by 2000 AD?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) and (b) The National Policy on Education 1986 envisaged that all children who would attain the age of eleven years by 1990 would have five years of schooling or its equivalent through the Non-Formal stream; and that by 1995 all children will be provided free and compulsory education upto fourteen years of age.

The revised National Policy on Education, 1992 states that free and compulsory education of satisfactory quality would be provided to all children upto 14 years of age before we enter the 21st centuary.

(c) and (d) The factors responsible for the country's inability to achieve targets of universalisation of elementary education so far include:

— Socio-economic and cultural constraints.

— Rapid increase in population.

— Non-availability of required funds.

— Non-provision of necessary infrastructure, facilities, teachers, teaching learning materials etc.

— Persistence of regional, gender and caste disparities.

The Programme of Action, 1992 prepared in pursuance of the revised National Policy on Education, provides the broad framework for achieving the targets of Universalisation of Elementary Education. In this context Government of India has initiated a number of Centrally Sponsored Schemes, viz. Operation Blackboard, Teacher Education, Non-Formal Education and Mid-Day Meal Scheme. Besides, State Governments are providing a number of Incentives which include free text books and stationery, school uniforms and attendence scholarships to improve participation and retention of children.

जल प्रदूषण को नियंत्रित करने में सरकार की विफलता

910. **श्री गोपाल सिंह जी॰ सोलंकी:** क्या पर्यावरण और वन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि सरकार जल प्रदूषण के नियंत्रण में बुरी तरह से विफल रही है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो पर्यावरण (संरक्षण) अधिनियम, 1986 के अधीन बहि:स्त्राव और उत्सर्जन की स्वीकार्य निर्धारित सीमा को लागू करने हेतु किए जा रहे प्रयासों का ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(ग) क्या यह सच है कि जल प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड के अधिकारी उक्त अधिनियम के अधीन बहि:स्त्राव और उत्सर्जन के लिए निर्धारित अधिकतम स्वीकार्य सीमा का कार्यान्वयन सुनिश्चित नहीं कर रहे हैं और सरकार ने उन अधिकारियों के विरुद्ध कोई कार्रवाई नहीं की है?

पर्यावरण और वन मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (कैप्टन जय नारायण प्रसाद निषाद): (क) से (ग) केन्द्रीय प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड (सीपीसीबी) ने प्रायोगिक तरल बहिस्त्रावों और गैसीय उत्सर्जन की निकासी के लिए उद्योग-विशिष्ट मानक तैयार किए हैं। ये मानक पर्यावरण (संरक्षण) अधिनियम, 1986 के तहत निर्मित पर्यावरण (संरक्षण) नियमों के अंतर्गत अधिसूचित किए गए हैं। इन मानकों को राज्य प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्डों के माध्यम से लागू किया जाएगा। बहिस्त्राव की राशि की गुणवत्ता को देखते हुए यदि आवश्यक हुआ तो राज्य प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड इन मानकों को और भी कठोर बना सकता है, परन्तु इनमें किसी प्रकार की ढील नहीं दे सकता।

अत्यधिक प्रदूषण फैलाने वाले उद्योगों की 17 श्रेणियों में से अधिकांश बड़े और मझौले उद्योगों ने तरल और गैसीय बहिस्त्रावों से संबंधित मानकों के अनुपालन के लिए पर्याप्त सुविधाएं स्थापित कर ली हैं। 1551 उद्योगों में से 1259 ने आवश्यक प्रदूषण नियंत्रण उपकरण उपलब्ध करा लिए हैं।

औद्योगिक क्षेत्रों/समूह में स्थित लघु उद्योगों से होने वाले जल के प्रदूषण के नियंत्रण के लिए साझे बहिस्त्राव शोधन संयंत्र स्थापित किए गए हैं जिनके लिए विश्व बैंक की औद्योगिक प्रदूषण नियंत्रण परियोजना के तहत केन्द्रीय और राज्य सरकारों द्वारा सहायता दी गई है।

Development of socially desirable cropping pattern in Maharashtra

911. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are providing incentives to the farmers to develop the socially desirable cropping pattern to meet the production requirement of various commodities in Maharashtra; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) and (b) In order to develop the Socially Desirable Cropping Pattern in Maharashtra, the Government is implementing the following Centrally Sponsored Schemes:

(i) Integrated Cereals Development Programme in coarse cereals based cropping system areas (ICDP-Coarse Cereals);

(ii) Sustainable Development of Sugarcane based Cropping System (SUBACS);

(iii) Intensive Cotton Development Programme (ICDP-Cotton);

(iv) National Pulses Development Project (NPDP);

(v) Oilseeds Production programme (OPP).

Under these schemes thrust is given on transfer of technology through the field demonstration and training of farmers as well as incentive for supply of critical inputs like seeds, farm implements, sprinkler/drip equipments.

These Schemes are funded on 75%25 sharing basis between the Central and State Government. The total funds allocated to Maharashtra as Central share during 1996-97 — Scheme-wise are as under:

		Rs. lakhs
ICDP	Coarse Cereals	878.79
SUBACS		536.84
ICDP	Cotton	325.53
NPDP		370.00
OPP		1025.00

Involvement of Private Sector in Plantation Crops

912. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether business and industry have urged Government to remove land ceiling laws to allow private sector to grow plantation crops for agro-based industries, if so, Government's reaction theeto;

(b) whether Government have conducted any study to find out the impact such a step will have on small/medium farmers, agricultural labour and food production;

(c) if so, the details of the findings in this regard; and

(d) if no study has been conducted, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHTRA): (a) to (d) Information is being collected and shall be placed on the table of the House.